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Envoy Who Helped Free 4 Is Fired

By Don Shannon
Los Angeles Times

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has fired W. Beverly Carter Jr., the ambassador to Tanzania who played a leading role in helping free three Stanford University students and a Dutch woman kidnapped from Tanzania by Zaire rebels.

Carter had been scheduled to be named ambassador to Denmark, although the nomination had not been formally submitted to the Danish government. State Department sources said the black diplomat will be reassigned to the United States Information Agency at a reduction in status and pay.

Official spokesmen at the State Department and the White House declined to comment. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus said they planned to question Kissinger at a meeting Tuesday. The meeting had been scheduled



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dents last May. 19. State Department policy forbids negotiating with terrorists or paying ransom.

Dr. David Hamburg, professor of psychiatry at Stanford, who represented the university in attempting to liberate the four victims, said he found the denouement of Carter "amazing." He said the ambassador's problem may have arisen from Zaire's resentment against any dealing with guerrillas who held the captives inside Zaire in defiance of the government. "We had no choice but to deal with the rebels," Hamburg said. "They were the ones who had the students." But he said Carter was extremely careful to avoid transgressions of official policy.

"I saw the cables back and forth from Washington and everything he did was within the policy guidelines laid down by Washington," Hamburg said.

Carter, who had been in his post since 1972, got a message of congratulations from the State Department when the 22-year-old Stephen Smith of Garden Grove, Calif., was released three weeks ago. Shortly afterward, however, Carter was summoned home and told of Kissinger's dissatisfaction.

The 34-year-old ambassador was publisher of the Pittsburgh Courier from 1955 to 1964, when he entered the USIA as a press officer in Kenya. After service in Nigeria, he was made deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs in 1969, holding the post until his assignment to Tanzania.

Returning to the USIA here, Carter would be ranked as an information officer in the top class, with a salary of \$36,000. As ambassador to Copenhagen, he would have earned \$36,000 with allowances, almost equal to the salary.